Anorney's Docket No. 021238-410

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: C. N. Lopez

Confirmation No.: 7422

JAN 1 6 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Mohammad HAJALIGOL et al.

Application No.: 09/987,735

For:

Filed: November 15, 2001

CIGARETTE PAPER HAVING HEAT-DEGRADABLE FILLER PARTICLES, AND

CIGARETTE COMPRISING A CIGARETTE PAPER WRAPPER HAVING HEAT-

DEGRADABLE FILLER PARTICLES

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT (37 CFR 1.121)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) mailed January 9, 2004, in the above-identified application. In accordance with the Notice, Applicants resubmit the attached "AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS" section of the Amendment in Accompanying Request for Continued Examination, in which the status identifier for Claim 2 reads "Previously Presented."

Applicants respectfully submit that the corrected Amendment fully complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121. Accordingly, examination of the Amendment is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 1404

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404

(703) 836-6620

Registration No. 35,033